

Georgia Strait Alliance Questionnaire
B.C. Green Party Response

What is your position on Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline project?

The B.C. Green Party firmly opposes Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline project. Leader Andrew Weaver was the only MLA to be an intervener in the National Energy Board Hearing.

Our opposition to this project is based primarily on 4 key issues.

1. Trans Mountain has failed to adequately represent the degree of risk associated with the potential environmental and socio-economic effects of marine shipping activities that would result from the proposed project, including the potential effects of accidents or malfunctions that may occur.
2. Contingency planning for spills, accidents or malfunctions, during construction and operation of the project are not supported by rigorous science. The scientific studies presented by Trans Mountain with regard to the fate and behaviour of diluted bitumen in a marine environment fail to adequately support its assumption that diluted bitumen will float in the event of a spill.
3. Trans Mountain has failed to represent a clear and satisfactory ability to respond to an oil spill in a manner that would sufficiently mitigate the negative effects as well as adequately contain and recover the spilled oil.
4. Trans Mountain has neglected to represent the full scope of effects the Project could have on human health, the environment and local communities, especially coastal communities.

The coastal protection measures promised by the Federal government in no way negate the threat that the increase in diluted bitumen tanker traffic would bring. B.C. does not have the capacity to respond to any spill of any magnitude, in particular when it comes to diluted bitumen. A diluted bitumen spill in our coastal waters would be devastating to the marine environment, local communities, and our thriving tourism industry.

If you oppose the project, what specific steps would you take if elected to ensure the project does not proceed?

As government, the B.C. Green Party will use every legal means available to us to ensure that the project does not proceed. We will determine the best course of action upon forming government. Upon forming Government, we will work with the Federal Government and indicate our opposition to this project. Possible means we would consider include passing new legislation and imposing strict environmental requirements.

If you support the project, what specific steps would you take if elected to ensure BC's communities, environment and economy are protected?

We do not support the project.

In 2016 the Environmental Management Act was amended to develop [a new framework for land-based spill preparedness and response in BC](#), which will be implemented through future regulations

What is your view of the proposed framework? What, if any, changes would you make to the framework if you were to form government, and what would be your first priorities?

The Environmental Management Act is designed to provide the legal foundation for a spill preparedness and response regime in British Columbia. The legislation provides new requirements for spill preparedness, response and recovery, and it creates new offences and penalties. It enables government to put in place regulations that will govern a spill response and regime.

The B.C. Greens support the development of a spill preparedness and response regime. However, the problem with this Act is the extent to which it puts key items of interest into regulations, which are up to the government's discretion.

The first priority of a B.C. Green Government would be to ensure that we have a robust spill preparedness and response regime in B.C., with the highest standards of safety, enforcement, oversight and local community involvement, to ensure that we are prepared to deal with spills that result from current tanker traffic. We would also act to prevent the expansion of tanker traffic that would result from Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain expansion.

We also recognize that the best form of spill prevention is to reduce the number of oil tankers in our waters, and that no response will ever fully clean up an oil spill, which is why we are opposed to the expansion of oil tanker traffic in B.C.

How would you propose to work with the federal government to strengthen marine spill planning and response, and to ensure that the provincial and federal regimes are aligned?

We will work collaboratively with the Federal government to ensure that we have the strongest marine spill planning and response regime and ensure full alignment. We will act to ensure that the health and safety of British Columbians, and the protection of our environment, are protected above all else.

What specific actions can the provincial government take to ensure that local communities are meaningfully involved in oil spill planning and response?

A B.C. Green Government would directly involve local communities, stakeholders, and First Nations in all steps of oil spill planning and response. We would empower local communities, who know their local waters best, to play a meaningful role in oil spill planning and response. We would ensure that they have the necessary training and capacity, and that their role is formally built into response plans.

For example, would you support provincial recognition of and funding for a Regional Community Advisory Council as a formal mechanism for local governments, First Nations and coastal community stakeholders to participate in oil spill prevention, preparedness, planning and recovery?

The B.C. Greens are committed to empowering local communities and First Nations community members to help prevent, prepare for and respond to oil spills. Establishing a Regional Community Advisory Council is one mechanism that we would consider, in consultation with experts and local community stakeholders.

Do you have any additional comments or activities you would like to share with our supporters?

The B.C. Green Party is absolutely committed to the protection of B.C.'s natural environment and coastal waters. As Government, we will every legal means available to us to ensure that the Kinder Morgan expansion project does not proceed. To have a strong economy, we do not need to put our environment at risk through reckless, short-sighted policies that double-down on last century's fossil fuel economy. We believe that the most exciting economic opportunities for B.C. exist in the emerging economy, in clean energy and technology, and small businesses and entrepreneurship. A B.C. Green government will pursue those opportunities in the emerging economy, we will ensure that our environment is well-protected, and we will take strong action to meet our carbon reduction targets.